

SECOND COLLECTION.

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The following Letters are here re-printed together for the more convenient Information of the Committees and Delegates of Associated Counties, Cities, and Towns, and all other well-meaning Men, throughout England.

London, 7th March, 1781.



J. Massie.

To the PRINCIPAL LAND-HOLDERS of ENGLAND

and

To the PRINCIPAL CITIZENS of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

No. LXXIII.

THE Trial that hath proved Lord George Gordon to be innocent doth strongly indicate, that some other Person or Persons must be guilty; but who that Person is, or who those Persons are, no Dying Speech or Confession hath yet informed us, or left any sufficient Clue to find out.

We do, however, know, by the said Trial, that our Protestant Associators are not the Men to whom we should say (as Prince George of Denmark said to the late King James the Second) that, *if Religion had not been the best Thing in the World, the worst Things could not have been done under the Cloak of it.*

And, we do, moreover, know, without the said Trial, that Men, whose own Consciences do not accuse them of the worst of Crimes, need not seek for the best of Cloaks to conceal them; no more than he who is whole needeth a Physician.

10th Feb. 1781.

J. MASSIE.

To the PRINCIPAL LAND-HOLDERS of ENGLAND,

and

To the PRINCIPAL CITIZENS of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

No. LXXIV.

IF the Measure of national Iniquity be not quite filled up, ye will consider what should be done, before Events make it too late to do any Thing at all; and not suffer either a Dutch War, or a most perilous Way of relieving Gibraltar, to be made a leading Means of complicating our Destruction.

For we cannot hope to amuse the French while our main Fleet is gone to fight the Spaniards, as the Roman General Nero amused Hannibal till he and Livius had routed Asdrubal; neither can we expect, that our Fleet will return in a Condition to face that of France, EVEN if it routs the Spanish Fleet.

So that, if actual War with Holland, and all Apprehensions of War with Russia, Sweden, and Denmark, were entirely at an End, the very Existence of these Kingdoms, AS SUCH, would forbid our NOW attempting to relieve the important Fortress of Gibraltar, otherwise than by Stealth.

It therefore matters not, in our present most perilous Situation, whether the favourable Accounts said to be lately received from America are TRUE, or FALSE; because we are now to reckon upon the Naval Power a wicked War hath left us, and not upon that which Peace with America may hereafter give us.

How our Ministers of State came to be blind to ALL THIS; or what Motives they had for beginning a War that common Justice would have prevented; and for continuing the same until they had sacrificed Fifty Thousand Men and Fifty Millions of Money, in labouring for France and Spain, is not for me to inquire.

I therefore must leave ye to read, as I do, in such mental Blindness of the ministerial Roots and Causes of all our Calamities, that an Over-ruling Providence hath made the Removal of them from Power, and the bringing of them to Justice, LEADING CONDITIONS of preventing our Destruction.

Which is now become too awfully visible to all Orders of Men for any thinking Man to expect, that there are many Months left for ye to CHOOSE what ye will do.

Of all which, I take this timely and public Notice, that none of ye may hereafter vainly and childishly endeavour to excuse their not NOW joining in proper Courses to prevent the final Overthrow and Dissolution of THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Which are so far made practicable by a most wicked and beggaring Waste of Blood and Treasure, that Two or Three Campaigns possibly may find foreign Owners for most of your Estates, and send many of ye to rue among Savages, that neither Religion, Reason, nor EVEN the most woeful Warnings, could timely convince them, that "a Kingdom divided against itself cannot stand;"

TEACH THEM TO READ,

domestic Sorrow that daily haunted them,

national Shame that yearly increased,

Gothic Mutilations of Greek and Roman Statues

so much gazed at—or even

surrounding Armaments so often talked of,

THAT

SPEEDY REFORMATION,

OR

SWIFT DESTRUCTION,

MUST ENSUE!

11th Feb. 1781.

J. MASSIE.

To the PRINCIPAL LAND-HOLDERS of ENGLAND

and

To the PRINCIPAL CITIZENS of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

No. LXXV.

WHILE it is in your Power to CHOOSE what ye will do, I wish to hear of your taking such Courses as may give all Orders of Men Reason to hope, that there is Wisdom and Justice enough left among ye to appease the Resentment, and to regain the Confidence of our former Allies.

It being easy to foresee, that the rejecting of a Bill whereby it was wisely intended to reform the State, neither will appease such Resentment, nor regain such Confidence; but, on the contrary, will justify any Conquests which other Nations may make, to reform those who WILL NOT reform themselves.

Because it manifests an Intention to persevere in those wicked and corrupt Councils which have driven other Nations to arm in their own Defence; and warns those Nations to seek by Conquests from the British Empire, that SAFETY which they can no longer hope to find in British Wisdom and Justice. Even as Treason, Blood-shed, and Rapine, do warn both Nations and private Men to seek by Axes, Halters, and Whipping-posts, that SAFETY which they can no longer hope to find in Men whom no Ties can bind, nor any Thing but the Fear of Punishment restrain.

The rejecting of that Bill, therefore, only serves to confirm me in believing, that removing from Power, and bringing to Justice, the ministerial Roots and Causes of all our Calamities, are, by an Over-ruling Providence, made LEADING CONDITIONS of preventing our Destruction.

And

And other Nations will be sure to wonder, that ye, who know what lawful Courses to take against any Steward or Bailiff whose Wickedness hath nearly ruined *his Lord's Estate*, do not ALSO KNOW, what lawful Courses to take against Ministers whose Wickedness hath nearly undone THREE KINGDOMS.

For other Nations will not easily believe, that in a Nation professing Christianity, and yearly appointing Fasts to implore the Blessing of Heaven on it's Arms, there can be Men in Authority so atheistically wicked as to think of screening from Justice those whom the Laws of both GOD and Man have doomed to Punishment.

And this in dreadful Contempt of those awefully surrounding Manifestations of Divine Wrath which stand as a Cloud of Witnesses to prove, that *ye have but a short Time to choose what ye will do*, and that either *speedy Reformation or swift Destruction MUST ENSUE!*

But I have done my Duty, by thus timely and publicly shewing what so awefully appears to be yours; that all Orders of Men may know, wherein Common Safety requires *ye to LEAD*, and *them to FOLLOW*, in Conformity to the Law of GOD and the Laws of your Country.

1st March, 1781.

J. MASSIE.

P O S T S C R I P T.

Various ministerial Artifices having, *under different Masks and Disguises*, been used, to prevent my printed Letters from being received by a Number of ye, whose Names it neither is necessary nor proper to mention in a public News-paper, or even in Print;

It is more than probable, that many Gentlemen or other Persons, in the Country, who may have chosen, and ordered, this Paper*, will have other Papers of the Day sent to them, with a wicked Intention of suppressing, as far as may be, the national Information contained in these Two Letters.

Common Safety, therefore, compels me to add, that such Gentlemen or other Persons as shall be so imposed upon, *either now or hereafter*, will be greatly wanting to both their Country and themselves, if they do not give speedy Information of the same, to some Member of Parliament who knows them, and is known to be a Friend to his Country.

To the End, that such Member may complain thereof to the House, or take such other Course as shall appear to him most proper, for putting an effectual Stop to Practices which our most perilous Situation makes TREASONABLE, although the Law hath not made them so.

3d March, 1781.

J. MASSIE.

* The London Evening Post, (from Thursday March 1st to Saturday March 3d, 1781.)

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#### To the CITIZENS of LONDON.

TRADE cannot subsist without mutual Trust among private Men, nor thrive to any Degree without a Confidence of both public and private Safety; and consequently a Trust in the Government, from an Opinion of it's Strength, Wisdom, and Justice.

Sir William Temple.

GENTLEMEN,

No. L.

A WELL-FOUNDED Rise of FOUR per Cent. in the Prices of Government Annuities, commonly called Stocks, would be Matter of real Joy to all Orders of Men.

But upon looking into the London Gazette of Yesterday, I cannot discover the least Foundation for Stocks rising at all, much less for their rising 4 per Cent.

And, a little serious Attention to the Quotation prefixed to this Letter will shew ye, that a Change of Ministers and Measures is essential to any such well-founded Rise.

B U T I F,

By the, not yet well accounted for, CITY Riots and Burnings last Summer,

and, By the Continuation of a Military Force at THE BANK OF ENGLAND, so long after Peace and good Order have been universally restored, and the assigned Reasons for at first sending such Military Force there, are quite taken away,

#### OUR PRESENT MINISTERS

Are enabled to so far prostitute the Authority and Power of Government as to secretly compel the Directors of the Bank, and other monied Citizens, to what I am to call a Lending of Money to SUCH MINISTERS, a Rise of 4 per Cent. in the Stocks may be very easily brought about.

But the Directors of the Bank possibly may tell their Fellow-Citizens, that a Military Force is, by their own FREE Consent, still continued at the Bank.

I therefore must tell those Directors, that Montezuma, the last Emperor of Mexico, told his Subjects that he was with F. Cortez by his own FREE Consent, when he actually was PRISONER to that conquering Spaniard.

And, I must also tell such of ye as Corruption and Folly have not yet made mere walking Shadows of MEN, that our happy Constitution of Government gives even FELONS a Right to be freed from their Fetters while they are pleading for their Lives; and will not suffer any Military Force to be either present at, or near to, any Parliamentary Election; much less will it suffer Soldiers to mount the Hustings, WHEN the Electors are voting.

I therefore am humbly of Opinion, that neither the Directors of the Bank, nor any other Citizens of London, can CONSTITUTIONALLY LEND One Shilling of Money, either to the present, or any other, Ministers of State, UNTIL all other Military Force than such as is, or may be, constitutionally commanded and directed by the Civil Magistrates of London, shall be removed from the Bank of England, and from all other Places within the Jurisdiction of those Civil Magistrates.

And, I very much doubt, whether any future Parliament, if we continue a People, will think itself bound by our Constitution of Government, to pay either the Principal, or the Interest of any Money, that either the Directors of the Bank, or any other Citizens, may SEEM TO lend, while awed by a Military Force, as aforesaid; or in any other Manner that hath not heretofore been deemed consistent with the chartered Rights and Privileges of the Citizens of London.

And, as to the Contract to lend such Money, I do not believe, that any English Jury of common Sense and common Honesty will give One Shilling of Damages against either the Directors of the Bank, or any other Citizens or Persons, for their refusing to perform either verbal or written Contract or Promise by them made to lend Money to SUCH Ministers, under SUCH Circumstances.

Because those Directors, &c. may plead, that they made such Contract or Promise under the Influence and Fear of a Military Force, employed, as they conceive, contrary to our Constitution of Government; and capable of being so reinforced, under one Pretence or other, that they did not think either their Property or Persons were fully protected, either by the Charter of London or the known Laws of England; and, THEREFORE, they made such Contract or Promise to avoid WORSE Consequences.

In short, Gentlemen, this Money lending Business, like the late Rejection of a Bill wisely intended to reform our State, only serves to more and more confirm me in believing, that removing from Power, and bringing to Justice, the ministerial Roots and Causes of all our Calamities, are, by an Over-ruling Providence, made LEADING CONDITIONS of preventing that Destruction which BLOOD-SHED and other crying Iniquity have PREPARED FOR US.

Sunday Morning, 7 o'Clock,

4th March, 1781.

J. MASSIE.



*The following Letters are here re-printed together for the more convenient Information of the Committees and Delegates of Associated Counties, Cities, and Towns, throughout England.*

London, 26th January, 1781.

J. Massie.

To the CITIZENS of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

No. XLIX.

THE Preservation of Peace and good Order in your City doth not require any of ye to learn all the Niceties of military Exercise; but only to acquire so much Knowledge of it as will enable ye to do what is most essential, whenever common Safety shall require it.

I know, that those young Citizens who have more martial Ardour than can well be contained in a BROWN Coat will not thank me for saying this; and therefore I shall endeavour to merit their Thanks, by saying, that such martial Ardour may be allowed to swell, and boil over, in BLUE or SCARLET.

For the main Body of ye are not to be governed by what one Citizen likes, or another can afford to spend, but by the common Safety and Convenience of ALL; avoiding all unnecessary Expenses of either Time or Money, and discouraging every Endeavour to destroy good Neighbourhood, by any Affectation of Superiority.

Not aiming at military Parade; but meeting in your respective Parishes, or other Districts, on such Days, at such EVENING Hours, and in such Places, as the Majority shall fix; leaving every Man to enjoy the natural Right he hath to judge of his own Convenience, about afterwards Supping or Drinking with his Neighbours.

And, to avoid all unfriendly Contention about the Right of either commanding or directing in each District, let it wheel about from Citizen to Citizen; without excluding any Man who is not by his Time of Life, natural Disposition, or Multiplicity of Business, made unfit for such Command or Direction.

As to Rules and Orders, it will be both proper and necessary to have some established, with the Consent of a Majority, in each Parish, or other District; subject to such Alterations, from Time to Time, as either Experience, or the better adapted Rules and Orders of some other District shall, in the Judgment of such Majority, require.

And in Relation to Fines or Penalties, I shall only say, that they ought to be such as will rather promote Mirth and good Humour than be grievous to any Man; for it will be better to have the Room than the Company of such Citizens as are either so cross-grained or so negligent as to disregard all Order and Regularity.

To which I must add, that upon all Occasions, where the Preservation of Peace and good Order shall be thought to require a military Appearance, each Parish or other District should contribute such a Quota, in Proportion to its whole Number of exercising Inhabitants, as will make the Tour of Duty fair and equal.

To effect which, and to regulate other Matters now managed by Committees, there may be annually chosen, by Ballot, in each Parish or other District, a military Deputy, of known good Sense and good Temper, to represent the Whole, at either Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, as those Deputies shall, from Time to Time, think necessary.

For such military Deputies would not only prevent much Contention and Loss of Time in each Parish or other District, but might form better

Regulations for all, than any have yet formed for themselves; and thereby avoid giving Occasion to say, as too often may truly be said, of great Committees about small Affairs—the more Cooks, the worse Broth.

And, as to parading Marches, and any other than Parish, District, or Ward Meetings of military exercising Citizens, when the Preservation of Peace and good Order is not thought to require them, I have only to say, that doing the Duties of Free Government will be sufficient, without adding to them what will be unnecessary, if not unlawful.

28th Nov. 1780.

J. MASSIE.

P. S. The Inhabitants of other Cities, Market-Towns, Village-Parishes, and Sea-Coast Districts, throughout England, will severally judge for themselves, how far the Contents of this Letter are applicable to them.

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To the PRINCIPAL LAND-HOLDERS of ENGLAND,

and  
To the PRINCIPAL CITIZENS of LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

No. LXXI.

INSTEAD of making Peace with America, our Ministers have plunged us into a War with Holland; and thereby made it awfully doubtful, whether or not your NOW bringing those Ministers to Justice can prevent this Nation from being brought to Destruction.

This was not the Case, THREE Years ago, when the taking of General Burgoyne and his whole Army Prisoners opened so wide a Door for Peace with America, that bringing those Ministers to Justice would have restored Trust and Confidence between us and our American Brethren.

This was not the Case, TWO Years ago, when the bringing of those Ministers to Justice would have created such Expectation from our future Councils, that Ministers less able than Cecil might have restored Peace with America, and thereby have cut short both France and Spain in their Expectations from War.

Neither was this the Case, ONE Year ago, when the bringing of Ministers to Justice might have prevented a French Army from being sent to America, and put a Stop to Injuries which have driven our former Maritime Friends to give us Law, instead of sending us Help; if it could not have also prevented Religion from being, by Boys and Rabble-rout, made a Pretence for their leading in such Schemes against this vast Metropolis as required the Head of a General to find out and to so link together, that Thieves were let loose, and Pick-pockets turned Reformers.

But this is NOW the Case; and in that Case ye may read, that we cannot have any Foundation for even hoping to escape Destruction, until those Ministers have been brought to Justice; to atone for crying Iniquity in America; and to prevent all the Nations in Europe from joining to destroy us.

For our NOW attacking Holland may be easily construed into attacking all the other at present neutral Maritime Powers in Alliance with her; and therefore we must either do Justice on the Ministers who caused such Attack, or leave Russia, Sweden, Denmark, and Holland to seek for it with their Fleets and Armies.

For



For there cannot possibly be any War between England and Holland, without a very bad Administration of Government in one or other of them; because their Interests, like those of Husband and Wife, are so much one and the same, that IF THEY CLASH, THEY MUST SINK.

Now though the Dutch, from the very Foundation of their Republic, have, on various Occasions, given this Nation very just Cause to complain of them; it nevertheless will be easy to shew, that our present Disputes with the Dutch all originate and proceed from the Wickedness of our own Ministers.

For the Seven United Provinces are so small in themselves, and so accessible to French Armies, that Self-preservation *ever did*, and *will* compel the Dutch to lean to the French Side of the Question, when wicked Councils in England disable this Nation from making Head against France.

Upon this all-ruling Principle, I lately accounted for the Dutch refusing to grant us the Succours wherewith they are bound by Treaty to assist us; and upon the same Principle our other Complaints against them may be answered; for until we grow wiser and better, *the Dutch MUST DO* as the French bid them.

I therefore think it quite unnecessary to say any Thing of those OUT-SIDE Reasons which our Ministers have found for plunging us into a Dutch War; more especially as your own Hearts will tell ye, that, *we refused to hear the Cries of our Brethren, and therefore are these Evils come upon us.*

Such being the Ways of an Over-ruling Providence, that there never is a Want of Means to make Punishment keep Pace with the Crimes for which it is inflicted; even as it hath done, by heaping Evils and Dangers upon us, in Proportion as we have been more cruelly wicked to our American Brethren.

I therefore think it unnecessary to any more tell ye, that the Blood which hath been shed must speedily be atoned for, either *by the Ministers or by the People*; or to here again repeat, that ye must either bring those Ministers to Justice, or they will very soon bring this Nation to Destruction.

For if the Measure of national Iniquity be not quite filled up, ye will both know and feel, that *ceasing to do Evil to our American Brethren, and so atoning for the Evil that hath been done, will be unto us as a Wall, on the Right Hand and on the Left.*

1st January 1781.

J. MASSIE.

TO THE PRINCIPAL LAND-HOLDERS OF ENGLAND,

TO THE MERCHANTS OF LONDON.

"GOD hath left the Poor at HIS Pupils, and the Rich as HIS Stewards to provide for them—Where there are many Poor, the Rich cannot long or safely continue such."

Lord Chief Justice Hale.

GENTLEMEN,

AN unrelenting Perseverance in wicked Councils and Measures hath at last reduced our Commerce to such narrow Bounds, that, instead of your safely Trading in all the Four Quarters of the World, we cannot long expect to have this Metropolis supplied with Coals from Newcastle.

The Want whereof appeared to me so terrible in Idea, that I thought it high Time for the Magistrates and other wealthy Inhabitants to provide against such Want, in the Summer of the Year 1779, when the combined Fleets of France and Spain made it Wisdom to timely guard against so terrible an Evil.

I therefore gave some Hints about it, in the Postscript to my printed Letter dated 17th of June, 1779—I mentioned it more particularly in my 43d Letter to the Citizens of London, dated 9th of August, 1779; and the very next Day I wrote such a Letter to the Lord-Mayor and Aldermen as should have had Weight with them.

But neither what I then made public to all, nor even the Destruction that this Metropolis hath since so narrowly escaped, do yet appear to have fully opened the Eyes of those who should first see.

For many have met, without giving our starving Sugar-Colonies that immediate Relief which they professedly met to give; and I do not hear that any of ye have met, deliberated, and come to proper Resolutions.

FOR promoting Peace with America, that ye may recover what is recoverable of your lost Trade.

FOR opposing a War with Holland, that ye may preserve the little Trade our Ministers have not yet ROBBED ye of, and prevent all the Nations in Europe from joining to destroy us—and

FOR preventing such a Want of Coals in this Metropolis, as may have nearly the Effects of a Famine.

I say, Gentlemen, that I have not yet heard of your meeting, deliberating, and coming to proper Resolutions concerning ALL or ANY of THESE THINGS!

I therefore submit them to your most serious and speedy Consideration, that your own Safety may, if Nothing else can, bring about Union, and put ye upon doing what is proper on your Part, BEFORE Events make it TOO LATE to do any Thing at all.

15th January 1781.

J. MASSIE.

TO THE PRINCIPAL LAND-HOLDERS OF ENGLAND,

and

TO THE PRINCIPAL CITIZENS OF LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

No. LXXII.

IF there be Wisdom and Justice enough left among ye to appease the Resentment, and to regain the Confidence of our former Allies, we may hope, that Peace with America will avert the Destruction that now hangs so visibly and heavily over us.

But if ye will still be blind to all those Warnings which are so awefully written in a rapidly increasing Train of wide-wasting Evils; we have to fear, that HE who overthrew Pharaoh and his Host in the Red Sea, will soon make other Nations HIS Instruments to overthrow and subvert these Kingdoms.

25th January, 1781.

J. MASSIE.

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